



HIGHland Veterinary Hospital

66 Old Hume Highway
Braemar, NSW 2575

E: info@highlandsveterinaryhospital.com.au
Ph 02 4872 1144



May 2020 Newsletter

Hello and Welcome to This Month's Newsletter

Please note the following:

HIGHLANDS VETERINARY HOSPITAL IS CLASSIFIED AS AN ESSENTIAL SERVICE, AND WILL BE ABLE TO CONTINUE WORKING UNDER SHUTDOWNS CURRENTLY IN OPERATION IN AUSTRALIA.

As life continues under strict supervision from Government & Health Authorities, people are coming up with some innovative ways to fill in their days during the lock down. Families are dragging out the long forgotten board games and puzzles, dinner is returning to a family event, and pets are just loving all the extra time with their humans! Puppy school throughout the country has moved to an online service, with many new owners dialling in to learn how to train that energetic ball of fur that delights in chewing everything that they can get their teeth into! For puppies, it is school as usual albeit at home!

But now is also a time to remember the basics for animal welfare. Attention to [dental health](#) is vital, and for us at HIGHlands, it is business as usual. Pet dental health is important because if it is neglected, it can trigger off more serious health issues such as heart and kidney disease. Bacteria starts below the gumline that release toxins that damage the surrounding tissues. A dog with a severe bad breath is a sign of a dog with dental problems! If your dog has never had its teeth checked, now is a good time to book for an appointment. Our dental checks are FREE so contact us today to book your fur baby in!



This month we cover the following topics.

- ❖ Our new Corona Virus operational tactics
- ❖ Eye Health for pets
- ❖ Case study- Scooter & grass seeds
- ❖ Bladder stones in pets
- ❖ Puppies & separation anxiety
- ❖ Fun facts and humor
- ❖ Adopt a pet
- ❖ Vet Snippets

REMEMBER TO BOOK IN FOR YOUR PETS HEALTH CHECK UP. Kittens or Puppies aged birth to 1 year require a [health check up](#) every 3-4 weeks until they are around 16 weeks old, then after that every 6 months. Pets aged 1-7 years old only require a full check up once a year, but a senior pet 8-10 plus years will require a health check twice per year.



Our HIGHland Veterinary Hospital APP has been Updated!



The APP has a full library about animal health issues, plus a special 24/7 Animal Poison Control Center that can help you if your pet has eaten something poisonous. Our APP has the cutest lineup of pet selfies, plus you can order pet food and prescriptions, book an appointment, and even earn loyalty points that convert to rewards. Available **FREE** at the App Store, check it out today!



A BIT OF A LAUGH.

Q. What is the difference between a cat that got photocopied and a cat that follows you?

A. One is a cat copy, the other is a copycat!

Q. What do you get when you cross a sheepdog with a rose?

A. A Collie-flower! 😊



Preventing Puppy Separation Anxiety

With everyone stuck at home, getting a puppy right now could be an ideal time. With the lockdown in place you probably have the time to bond with them and get them used to your home. But a puppy that is never left alone can grow up with separation anxiety. The sound of a crying dog left alone is heartbreaking and once they start, changing this crying habit can be extremely hard. Prevention is always best, so a little training right now can be your best way to avoid this phenomenon. Set up a safe area where your puppy has plenty of fun toys, a soft bed, and a few chews and a bowl of water. Then go into the other room and shut the door for a while. Once they get used to that, you can leave them in a safe room and go outside (so they can't smell you in the other room) and go for a short walk. They will soon get to know that you always come back and they won't fret as much. The trick is to leave them with something like a stuffed Kong to chew on so that they enjoy the time alone. Soft music can help, as can rewarding good behaviour rather than focusing on the negatives. While this Pandemic has us locked uptight, it is a good time to initiate a training program for your young pup. Use this time creatively, set your puppy up for success.

BLADDER STONES ARE A COMMON PET PROBLEM.

Many pets are susceptible to bladder stones, including your cat, dog, and guinea pigs. The problem these stones cause includes pain, inflammation, infection, bleeding, trouble urinating, and in a severe case, your pet may not be able to urinate at all! At this stage, it becomes a life-threatening emergency. Many types of bladder stones can form, and treatment is dependant on the size and the type of stone. Symptoms include discomfort and trouble urinating. Licking at the urinary tract opening or crying when they urinate is another sign that all is not well. Blood in the urine is a giveaway sign for bladder stones.

Treatment consists of dietary changes and medications to dissolve the stones depending on the type of stone your pet has. Flushing small stones out of the bladder with saline may also be done. Surgery is the alternative for stones that cannot be dissolved or ultrasonically breaking the stones apart is also an option. If your pet shows any of the above symptoms please bring them in for an examination and we can help them to overcome this distressing problem.

Check out our Website – [Click here!](#)

CASE STUDY – SCOOTER AND GRASS SEEDS!

Grass seeds are a problem for long hair dogs, as the seeds can get into their toes, ears, lips or body. These seeds have a corkscrew angle that allows them to drill into your dog's skin. If you try to pull them out, they will usually break off leaving the seed head in the body. These will then 'travel' into the body and the bloodstream. Eventually they can end up in the heart or chest cavity etc. They are painful for your dog, and they produce an array of health problems. If you see seeds stuck in your dog, don't try to remove them – bring your dog to us so we can see where the seed is and can remove it completely. Thankfully it is a seasonal problem with only certain grasses, and one that affects long coated dogs with fluffy feet. If you cannot prevent them running around, you can get socks or special booties to protect their feet, or you could mow the grass! Check out the [video link](#) to learn more about this issue.



Bonnie

Waiting for a new home at the Golden Oldies. Do you have room for this awesome pooch at your place? She is 4 years old.

VET SNIPPETS

Microchipping – the best way to identify your dog if it is lost. Collars and tags are great, but if they fall off, then your pets [microchip](#) contains a unique identification number which can get your pet home safe to you quickly.

Wellness Pet Plans – they offer an affordable way to tailor a preventative health care regime that is designed to give your pet the best opportunity for good health. Simple monthly payments and [flexible plans](#) will ensure your pet is getting optimal health care.



Follow us on

[Instagram](#) 😊

When the World around me is going crazy, & Im loosing faith in humanity, I just have to take one look at my dog/cat to know that good still exists.

Author unknown.

ADOPT A PET – If you have decided to get a pet to join your family, please consider the abundance of cats and dogs who have been surrendered to animal shelters. Often these pets are given up through no fault of their own. Their owners may have hit hard financial times and the heart break of giving away a pet can be devastating. These pets often have been house trained, and the shelters such as the Golden Oldies and RSPCA have them vet checked and ready to rehome. Won't you help us to find homes for these deserving souls? Call the Golden Oldies Rescue Group on 0403 265 498 or [go online here](#). Also Check out RSPCA list of adoptee pets. You can call the NSW head office on 02 9770 7555 and find the closest center nearest you. Let's give these waiting pets a home!

PETS WITH RED, ITCHY EYES - AND WHAT TO DO ABOUT IT!

Does your pet have red eyes, lots of tears or pus oozing from the eye, or perhaps they are trying to scratch their eye? Does the eye look cloudy or have a glassy look? If so, your pet has an infection or health issue with their eyes. Never wait to see if the problem gets better on its own, as it rarely happens. If the eye is infected and left untreated, the eye may develop an ulcer which is very painful for your pet. It can also affect their eyesight.

Causes of eye problems could arise from allergies such as pollen, grass, or fleas, and mites. Conjunctivitis or 'pink eye' is a bacterial infection that affects the eye and tear ducts. There may be something trapped within the eyelid such as a foreign body such as a grass seed. Cherry eye is something that both cats and dogs can develop. It is a 'prolapse' of the 3rd eyelid – the membrane that protects their eye. Sometimes this third eyelid can become swollen, red, and inflamed.

The safest and quickest way to deal with all the above is to bring in your pet into see us. Often the infection is minor and easily fixed. Never leave an infection untreated or try to remove something from your cat's or dog's eye – we can do it quickly and safely.

OUR CREATIVE BUSINESS SOLUTIONS TO THE CARONA VIRUS.

Telemedicine - we can help you through Face time, Zoom, Etc. and through our App. Consultations in real-time!!

We can do house calls or pick-up and delivery of your pet from and to your door

We can always chat/consult on the phone

Use our 'Click and Collect' service - order what you need on the phone or through the App and then just drive into the Click and Collect bay and we'll bring your order right to your car - no contact!!

In this time of CRISIS - for us, it's business as usual and we are here to help you and your pet in EVERY way that we can.



Diarrhoea Alert.

Diarrhoea may accompany vomiting or it can happen just on its own. While one or two episodes of diarrhoea is not an emergency, ongoing diarrhoea can cause severe dehydration and other problems. It is important to bring your pet into us to be examined if this condition persists, especially if vomiting or lethargy accompanies it.